

Futures Notes

First Meeting

What have been the notable successes...
...and failures...of the past decade?
When have things gone well...and why?
What institutions have really achieved leadership?

What is the difference between universities in
different parts of the world...
...America vs. Europe vs. Asia

Futuring

Karl Weick suggests that perhaps we should read some
compelling science fiction scenarios of the 21st Century
...perhaps Eric Rabkin or John Boyd could help
...also focus on films

Dan Atkins suggests the use of videos
...knowledge navigator

Problems in brainstorming

At every stage the best ideas tend to get diluted.
Notes the experience of the LSA Undergraduate Committee
...suffers from too much democracy
There is a blocking process which seems to occur
Karl Weick notes that studies indicate that outsiders always
bring in the best ideas...not succession through the ranks.
There are a few examples of forcing renewal from within,
but these are rare. (Recall Engineering and Bus Ad
experiences.)

Knowledge-based organizations

In organizations, just like computers, now find
peer-to-peer structures...
...in some groups you're a leader
...in others you're a follower
...in still others, an observer

Skunkworks

We need to set up a counterpart of the Lockheed Skunkworks
in education
Perhaps give folks a term to do something different
...to prototype something

Dan Atkins mentioned the old idea of a "Dean's Department"

UM Challenges

Bob Weisbuch: LSA is a mall
...departments are stores
...LSA administration sets the hours
...students are shoppers
LSA is not an intellectual entity...it is a place you
go to lobby for \$\$\$
Weisbuch believes some kind of divisional structure is
necessary--perhaps with a 4th division to take
responsibility for the first two years

Graduate education needs to be seriously re-examined.

Do we have too many graduate students? Probably.

We need to broaden our concept of teaching beyond instruction
...perhaps moving away from solitary to collective learning
experiences

Perhaps we need distinguish the changing nature of the
public research university. The public thinks they
are buying a teaching university.

The largest group of UM-Dearborn transfer students
from other four-year institutions are from UMAA!